Authority (NPPA) has started to study the experience of other countries in the field of pricing and regulatory framework for affordable medicines to see whether benefit can be taken from their experience or not. Shri Pradeep Mehra, Ex-Member Secretary, NPPAand L.M. Kaushal, Director (Monitoring), NPPA visited France, United Kingdom and Isreal in May, 2006 to study pricing and monitoring mechanisms for medicines in these countries. Shri Arun Jha, Member Secretary, NPPA also visited Luxembourg, Brussels and Amsterdam in March, 2007 together with the officials of Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals for exploring opportunities in the Pharmaceutical and Plastic Sector in these countries. The officers who visited abroad have submitted their tour reports.

Companies operating on the basis of PPP

3420. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of firms in the country operating on the principle of Public Private Partnership (PPP) as on date;

(b) whether Government feels that this principle is harmful to the drug industry; and

(c) if so, how Government intends to control the domination of the private sector in the drug industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No such information is being maintained by this Department.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government is engaged in strengtheing Pharma CPSUs for manufacture of drugs.

Revival of fertilizer factories

3421. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether disinvestments in public sector fertilizer companies and corporations have helped to revive and rejuvenate the fertilizer factories like the Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.;

(b) if so. the production and profits/losses after tax incurred by these factories, year-wfec since 2001-02; and

(c) what specific steps were taken during these years to revive and rejuvenate the fertilizer factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The Government had disinvested 74% of Government of lndia equity in the Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL) during 2001-02. This was the only Public Sector Fertilizer company in which disinvestment had taken place. The details of production of the company and its profits/losses (after tax) since 2001-02 are given in Statement *(See* below). Immediately on disinvestment, as on 28th Feb. 2002. the management control of the company was transferred to the strategic partner who had purchased the majority share holding and it has ceased to be a Public Sector Undertaking. Hence, the Government taking any steps to revive and rejuvenate the company does not arise.

Statement

Details of the production and profit/losses incurred by Paradeep Phosphates Lid. since 2001-02

Year	Production (in LMT*)		Pofit (Loss) (after tax)
	DAP	NPK	(Rs. in crore)
2001-02	4.49	1.52	-259.43
2002-03	2.78	1.05	-38.91
2003-04	6.18	2.71	-46.04
2004-05	7.33	2.88	-15.08
2005-06	8.73	3.86	12.10
2006-07	8.22	4.86	109.28

*Lakh Metric Tonne.

NOTES

1. The financial years 2001-02 and 2002-03 comprise of a period of 18 months ended 30th September. 2002 and 6 months ended 31st March, 2003 respectively. All other financial years comprise of a period of 12 months ended on 31st March.

Price rise

3422. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of foodgrains and almost all essential commodities continue to rise during the last several months and have reached a high level which appears to be lacking rationale;

(b) if so, the rationale behind the price rise in items of common consumption, item-wise indicating comparative details thereof pertaining to the same period in 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2004;

(c) whether Government has formulated any strategy to arrest the steep rise in prices of essential commodities and to provide relief to the consumers among the poorer sections in the society, in particular;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Prices have risen owing to inadequate supplies in relation to demand, diversion of foodgrain to bio-fuel and animal feed, production losses due to inclement wheather conditions in both domestic and international markets. However domestic prices of most of essential commodities are either steady or declined. Only Retail Prices of Mustard and Vanaspati oil had shown an